Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Feast of the Holy Cross **13 September 2026**

8.00 Holy Communion

The order of service is printed on the laminated card.
The Reading, Gospel, and Prayers of the People can be found below.

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Organ Prelude on 'St. Columba' *Healey Willan (1880-1968)*

All stand to sing the hymn.

The Opening Hymn #471 *From the Hymnal 1982*

The Celebrant says

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Celebrant introduces the Confession, saying.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments, and to live in love and peace with all.

All kneel. Silence is kept. The Celebrant begins the Confession, saying,

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against thee
and against our neighbor,
in thought, and word, and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are heartily sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past,
and grant that we may serve thee in newness of life,
to the glory of thy name.
Amen.

The Celebrant says the Absolution.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All stand.

Kyrie Eleison from Missa Simplex *Rihards Dubra (b. 1964)*

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross that he might draw the whole world unto himself: Mercifully grant that we, who glory in the mystery of our redemption, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

All sit.

The Reading *Philippians 2.5-11*

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

All stand.

The Alleluia

Cantor: Sweetest wood and sweetest iron, that bare so sweet a burden; which only was counted worthy to sustain the King of heaven and its Lord. **Alleluia.**

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel *John 3.13-17*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John.
Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Jesus said, "No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The Sermon

All stand.

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God;
begotten, not made;
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried:
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

All kneel.

The Prayers of the People

In our prayers this week, we pray for the Anglican Church in New Zealand and Polynesia; and in the Albany diocese, for Jeremiah, our bishop. Today, we remember the people of Holy Cross, Warrensburg, Church of the Cross, Ticonderoga, and the brothers of the Order of the Holy Cross, West Park, as they celebrate their Feast of Title.

We ask God's blessing on those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week; and those whose year's mind falls at this time.

In peace we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for all those who are alone.

For this community, our country, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the gospel, and all who seek the truth.

For all bishops, priests and other ministers:
For all who serve God in his Church.

For our own needs and those of others, especially Patti, Norma, Jerilyn, Paula, John and Linda.

Silence is kept for people to offer their own petitions.

Hear us, Lord.
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

A period of silence follows.

We will exalt you, O God our king;
And praise your name for ever and ever.

We pray for those who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those whose faith is known to you alone, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

A period of silence follows.

Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

Celebrant: Heavenly Father, who by the cross and passion of thy Son Jesus Christ didst save and deliver us: keep us, we beseech thee, steadfast in faith, and enable us no longer to live unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again, even the same, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All stand. At the exchange of the Peace, you may greet those around you in the name of the Lord.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And with thy spirit.**

During the hymn, a collection is taken to support the work and ministry of Bethesda Church.

Hymn at the Offertory #435

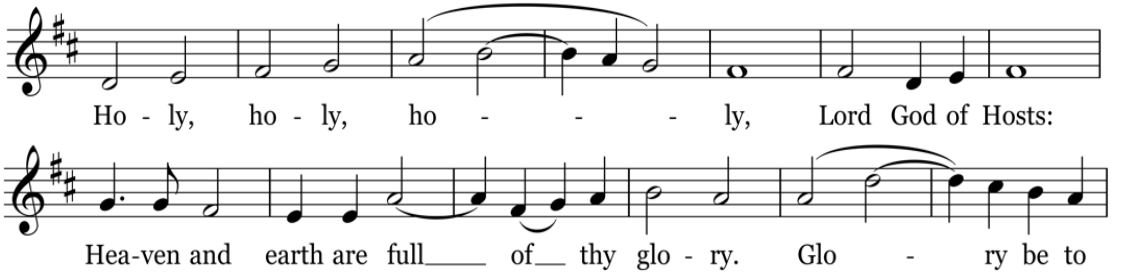
From the Hymnal 1982

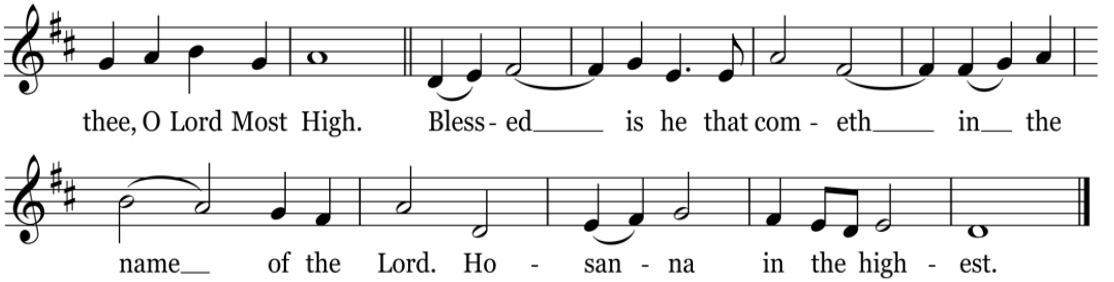
Remain standing.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up unto the Lord.
Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who for our sins was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; who by his suffering and death became the author of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praising thee and saying,





All kneel. The Celebrant says the Eucharistic Prayer printed on p. 341 of the Book of Common Prayer.

The prayer concludes … O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Fraction

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Agnus Dei from Missa Simplex *Rihards Dubra (b. 1964)*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Communion is distributed at the high altar rail. Please move at the direction of the ushers.

***During Communion**, the Choir sings the following Motet.*

O crux, ave, spes unica, in hac triumphi gloria. Auge piis justitiam reisque dona veniam.

Hail O Cross, our only hope at this triumphant, glorious time. Grant to the just an increase of grace, and pardon to the sinner.

Music: Rihards Dubra (b. 1964) Text: Venantius Fortunatus (530-609)

***Communion Hymn #167** (remain kneeling or seated)* *From the Hymnal 1982*

After Communion, all kneel.

The Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. **Almighty and ever living God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

The Blessing and Dismissal

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen**.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Closing Hymn #473 *From the Hymnal 1982*

Organ Prelude on 'Hyfrydol' *Healey Willan*

Welcome! Please join us for **refreshments** following the 10am service. Thanks to Kathleen and Mark Anspach for hosting; and to those **reading** and leading **prayers** at 8am, Sonia Arcelay and at 10am, Rick Wissler and Peter Brooks.

Monthly Envelope Funds raised in **September** will be divided between the feeding ministry at the local Presbyterian – United Church of Christ which provides a daily hot meal to those in need; and Christ Church Food Pantry, operated by the Episcopal parish in Ballston Spa.

Study Group *Learning from the life and witness of Bonhoeffer*. Join David and Cheryl Olsen for a three-week study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906–1945), a German pastor and theologian whose courageous faith and witness continue to challenge and inspire Christians today. Three Wednesdays - September 30, October 7 & October 14 - beginning at 6:30 p.m. For more information or to register, contact the church office.

The fall meeting of the **Bethesda Book Club** will be held Thursday, October 8th at 5:00 to discuss Joanna Cannon's delightful *The Problem with Goats and Sheep*. Please email the church office to sign up or speak to Mary Sanders Shartle if you have any questions.

The Bethesda Knitting Group welcomes anyone interested in knitting, fellowship, and outreach. For more information, please contact Carol or Jean through the Parish Office.

The **Office** re-opens the week of 20 September.

Organ Recital Glens Falls Presbyterian presents its annual Beeman Organ Concert, Friday, October 2 at 7:30 p.m. Nathan Laube, Professor of Organ at Eastman, plays music by Bach, Franck, Liszt, and Vierne. Suggested donation $15. Reception follows.

LifeWorks Community Action gratefully receives donations of canned foods and personal hygiene products. Items may be left in the box by the side door entrance.

Parking The lot adjacent to the church, which is accessible via Congress Street, offers free parking for the first two hours.

The *Isenheim Altarpiece* was painted by the German artist Matthias Grünewald in the early sixteenth century. Originally created for the Monastery of St Anthony at Isenheim, near Colmar in eastern France, it now hangs in the Unterlinden Museum in Colmar.

The religious community at Isenheim cared for those suffering from plague and other diseases, particularly ergotism, a painful and disfiguring illness caused by contaminated grain and commonly referred to at the time as "St Anthony's Fire." Grünewald's crucified Christ bears on his own body the wounds and sores familiar to those who came there for treatment. The sick could therefore look upon the Cross and see a Christ who entered into their suffering and bore its wounds in his own flesh. Restored in the last decade, this masterpiece remains one of the most haunting depictions of the Crucifixion in Western art.

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